

Message Text

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PAGE 01 FLOREN 00394 220705Z

13

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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UNCLAS FLORENCE 0394

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, IT

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF LIVORNO NEWSPAPER 'IL TELEGRAFO'

1. RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT OVER ONE HUNDRED YEAR OLD LIVORNO NEWSPAPER 'IL TELEGRAFO' WHICH HAS APPROXIMATELY 1 EEE TWO HUNDRED EMPLOYEES WILL CEASE PUBLICATION JULY 31, 1976, C EEE HAS CAUSED CONSIDERABLE FUROR IN LIVORNO/PISA AREA. EDITOR OF 'IL TELEGRAFO' CONTACTED CONSUL GENERAL AND REQUESTED THAT HE OBTAIN AMBASSADOR'S INTERVENTION TO PREVENT CLS EEE CLOSING ON GROUNDS THAT 'ONE MORE DEMOCRATIC VOICE IN ITALY WILL BE STILLED AND FREEDOM OF PRESS ENDANGERED' UNLESS THIS NEWSPAPER CONTINUES TO PUBLISH. EDITOR STATED THAT DELEGATION FROM PISA AND LIVORNO COMPRISED PRIMARILY OF LABOR UNION OFFICIALS GOING TO ROME ON JULY 21 TO VISIT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESIDENT FANFANI AND NEW GOVERNMENT FORMATEUR ANDREOTTI IN ATTEMPT ELICIT THEIR HELP AGAINST CLOSING NEWSPAPER.

2. 'IL TELEGRAFO' WHICH IS OWNED BY ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL MAGNATE ATTILIO MONTI HAS BEEN LOSING AROUND SIX HUNDRED MILLION LIRE ANNUALLY FOR PAST 5 YEARS. MONTI HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING REDUCE LOSSES THIS NEWSPAPER DURING PAST TWO YEARS BY HAVING IT PRINTED ON PRESSES FLORENCE NEWSPAPER 'LA NAZIONE' BUT ATTEMPT FAILED WHEN 'LA NAZIONE' PRINTERS REFUSED PRINT NEWSPAPER ON GROUNDS THIS WOULD DEPRIVE THEIR
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LIVORNO COLLEAGUES OF EMPLOYMENT.

3. JULY 20 AND JULY 21 ISSUES MONTI-OWNED 'LA NAZIONE' P
EEE OF FLORENCE AND MONTI-OWNED 'IL RESTO DEL CARLINO' OF
BOLOGNA NOT PUBLISHED SINCE JOURNALISTS AND PRINTERS WENT
ON STRIKE PROTESTING PROJECTED CLOSING DOWN OF MONTI-OWNED
ROME NEWSPAPER 'IL GIORNALE D'ITALIA'.

4. OUR SOURCES IN LIVORNO STATE THAT SUPPORTERS CONTINUED
PUBLICATION 'IL TELEGRAFO' HOPING ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVE
WITHOUT USE OF STRIKE WEAPON BUT DO NOT EXCLUDE THIS
POSSIBILITY.

5. COMMENT: OUR CONTACTS WITH MONTI ORGANIZATION STATE THAT
DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN 'IL TELEGRAFO' IS FINAL SINCE LONG
STANDING HISTORY OF LARGE FINANCIAL LOSSES TOO COSTLY AND
'IL TELEGRAFO' DISTRIBUTION AREA CAN EASILY BE CON EEE
COVERED BY FLORENCE BASED 'LA NAZIONE'. GORDON

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